



Demolition Debris Guidance on the Emergency Management of Debris Resulting from Natural Disasters

Each year severe storms destroy homes, barns and other buildings across Wisconsin. In a crisis emergency management of debris places yet another burden on property owners and emergency managers. Typically, a great deal of demolition debris needs to be managed in a short period of time.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is concerned with public health, safety, and environmental impacts when demolition debris is mismanaged. The Solid Waste Program offers assistance to communities in managing storm-generated debris.

Below are listed the typical waste types generated from natural disasters and the proper disposal methods.

CLEAN¹ SOIL, BRICK, BUILDING STONE, CONCRETE, ASPHALT PAVEMENT, WOOD WASTE FROM DOWNED TREES, AND UNPAINTED OR UNTREATED WOOD

May be disposed of *without Department approval* as long as the sites selected do not impact (contact waste staff for assistance on locating appropriate disposal site) surface waters, wetlands, floodplains, and critical habitat areas. The term “clean” refers to unpainted, untreated, and not contaminated with petroleum or other contaminants. Communities should consider composting or chipping smaller wood waste for use in landscapes damaged by the storm event or offering clean wood waste for use as firewood. Clean brick, building stone, concrete and asphalt may be stockpiled for crushing and reusing in future building projects.

ROOFING METALS, SIDING, AND OTHER METALS INCLUDING APPLIANCES

May be easily recycled and therefore should be stockpiled and hauled to a scrap metal recycler. Some appliances may contain hazardous substances such as freon and should be stockpiled separately from other metals. (Freon must be removed by qualified and licensed personnel.) You may want to consider incorporating a list of metal and appliance recyclers into each County Emergency Plan.

ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS - SIDING, FLOORING, ROOFING AND INSULATION

Asbestos containing items normally require special handling by **licensed** personnel and proper disposal. You should always contact your local Air Management Specialist for details on proper identification and handling of materials

containing asbestos. (Please see the statewide contact list on the reverse side for this assistance.)

HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE FORM OF PAINTS, SOLVENTS, FUELS AND PESTICIDES

Many municipalities have collection programs capable of handling household hazardous wastes. If your community does not have a household hazardous waste program, arrangements can be made with an outside contractor to establish a household hazardous waste disposal drop-off and collection service. You should always contact your local DNR Waste Staff for details and assistance (please see statewide contact list on reverse side for assistance in obtaining approval). Staff can also assist communities with questions regarding proper management and disposal of contaminated soil.

GLASS, ASPHALT AND FIBERGLASS ROOFING, CARPETING AND PAD, INSULATION, PVC PIPING, SIDING, DRYWALL, PLASTER AND PERSONAL ITEMS SUCH AS CLOTHING AND FURNITURE

Items that cannot be recycled or reused *require disposal in a locally licensed landfill or an approved one-time disposal site.*²

OPEN BURNING

Open burning of trees³, wood, brush, and other clean wood waste is an option, but **requires prior DNR approval**; however, this may not be the best option. Open burning results in the release of contaminants to the air and may have an adverse impact on human health and the environment. A fire spreading out of control is always of serious concern and it stretches needed emergency personnel even thinner. Chipping, composting, and using clean wood waste for firewood should be the options considered first!

There is no substitute for careful planning before an emergency occurs. Emergency planning should include a current list of DNR contacts that can assist communities in an emergency. These plans may also identify the location and transportation routes to licensed disposal facilities and household hazardous waste collection facilities. Similarly communities should identify areas where clean wood wastes, metals and clean concrete, block, brick, etc. may be segregated for proper management once the emergency has subsided. Communities may consider pursuing the development of an approved small demolition landfill.

DNR Air and Waste Management Program Contacts

NORTHEAST REGION (NE) includes the following counties:

Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago

Waste Management Contacts: Len Polczynski (920) 492-5870 Carol Schmidt (920) 424-3061

Air Management Contacts: Rick Wulk (920) 492-5881 Imelda Stamm (920) 424-7884

NORTHERN REGION (NO) includes the following counties:

Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Vilas, Washburn

Waste Management Contact: Gary LeRoy (715) 635-4059

Air Management Contact: Neal Baudhuin (715) 365-8958

WEST CENTRAL REGION (WC) includes the following counties:

Adams, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, LaCrosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Portage, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Wood

Waste Management Contacts: Dave Lundberg (715) 839-3708 Don Grasser (715) 421-7840

Air Management Contacts: Mehrdad Moghimi (715) 839-2906 Joe Ancel (715) 421-7816

SOUTHEAST REGION (SE) includes the following counties:

Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha

Waste Management Contacts: Frank Schultz (414) 263-8694 Frances Koonce (414) 263-8697

Air Management Contacts: Dan Schramm (414) 263-8620 Bill Yantawood (414) 229-0863 Tom Roose (262) 884-2330

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION (SC) includes the following counties:

Crawford, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk

Waste Management Contacts: Gene Mitchell (608) 275-3466 Mike Degen (608) 935-1947

Air Management Contacts: Tom Roushar (608) 273-5603 Dean Packard (608) 635-8111

If you need assistance from Department of Natural Resources staff during non-business hours please call the emergency hotline at 1-800-943-0003 press 1 when prompted and ask the DNR Duty Officer to contact a local DNR representative to assist you.

References:

¹NR 500.08(2)(a) Wisconsin Administrative Code

²NR 503.08 Wisconsin Administrative Code

³NR 429.04(1)(i) Wisconsin Administrative Code

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